

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraphs indicated below with the following amended paragraphs:

At page 7, 4th paragraph:

FIG. 2A is a schematic drawing diagrams and FIGS. 2B-E are diagrams
illustrating states of stem cells according to Example 1.

At page 7, 5th paragraph:

FIG. 3(aA) and FIG. 3(bB) are diagrams illustrating aggregates labeled with desmin (muscle cell marker) antibody or DAPI staining (nucleus) in Example 1.

At page 7, 8th paragraph:

FIG. 6(aA) is a diagram illustrating a result of labeling a rat-obtained stem cell by Oct-3/4 antibody staining and DAPI staining in Example 3.

At page 7, 9th paragraph:

FIG. 6(bB) is a diagram illustrating a result of labeling a rat-obtained stem cell by Oct-3/4 antibody staining and DAPI staining in Example 3.

At page 19, 4th paragraph:

With rotating by a commercially available shaker, the trypsin-treated iris pigmented epithelial cells were cultured in the floated-coagulated-mass-culturing medium in a CO₂ incubator for three to seven days. In this way, stem cells were obtained. The obtained stem cells are illustrated in FIG. 2(aA)

At page 20, second paragraph:

Moreover, the stem cells were cultured for 1 to 2 months by respectively using the media (b) and (c). As a result, aggregates as illustrated in FIGS. 2(b) and 2(c)B-C and FIGS. 2D-E, respectively, were obtained.

At page 20, third paragraph:

The aggregates obtained by culturing the stem cells in the medium (b) and (c) were labeled using desmin antibody (muscular cell marker) and DAPI staining (nucleus). The results are illustrated in FIGS. 3(aA) and 3(bB). FIG. 3(aA) illustrates aggregates obtained by culturing the stem cells in the medium of (b) in (FIGS. 2B and 2C). FIG. 3(bB) illustrates aggregates obtained by culturing the stem cells in the medium of (c) in (FIGS. 2D and 2E). In FIGS. 3(aA) and 3(bB), the white part indicates an image of the aggregates labeled with desmin, and the gray part indicates an image of the aggregates labeled by DAPI staining (nucleus).

At page 22, third paragraph:

The present example examined expression of Oct-3/4 in iris tissue of a postnatal mouse and a postnatal rat and in parts of stem cells obtained from their iris tissue. The result is illustrated in FIGS. 6(aA) and 6(bB). FIG. 6(aA) illustrates stem cells obtained from an eleven-day-old rat using the method according to the present invention and labeled by Oct-3/4 antibody staining and DAPI staining. The white color indicates the labeled portion. FIG. 6(bB) illustrates stem cells obtained from a three-week-old rat using the method according to the present invention and labeled by Oct-3/4 antibody staining and DAPI staining. The white color indicates the labeled portion. From FIGS. 6(aA) and 6(bB), it can be understood that an Oct-3/4 gene and a gene product (Oct-3/4 protein) were expressed both in the iris tissue of the postnatal mouse and the postnatal rat and in the parts of the stem cells obtained from the iris tissue (i.e. they are all Oct-3/4 positive).